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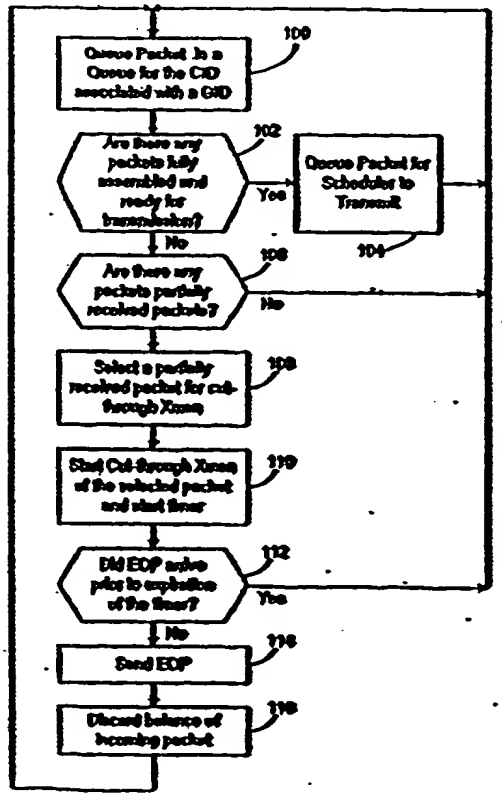
(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING CUT-THROUGH VIRTUAL CIRCUIT MERGING

(57) Abstract

In the event no completely assembly packets have been received and scheduled for transmission (102), a partially received packet is selected for cut-through transmission prior to receipt of all cells comprising the packet (108). Transmission of the selected packet is initiated and a timer is started (110). If the timer expires prior to the receipt of an end of packet indication for the packet for which transmission has commenced (112), an end of packet signal is generated (114) and cut-through packet is aborted (116). In this manner, delays associated with packet reassembly may be avoided and buffer sizes of reassembly buffers may be reduced.



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